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A CASE OF PROTRACTED CROUP,
SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH UNUSUALLY LARGE DOSES OF TARTAR EMETIC
AND IPECACUANHA.

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[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE subject of the following case was a male infant, ætat. about nineteen months, and uncommonly healthy (and well grown) anterior to this attack. I learnt from the parents of the child, upon my arrival, that it had been ill something like forty-eight hours; and for the last eighteen seemed to be dying. My investigation of the case, disclosed the discouraging facts, that a profound stupor, increasing coldness, and lividness of the extremities, had existed about eighteen hours. At this time these appearances were most strikingly manifest, attended with a dilated state of the pupils—the eyes half closed, and the corneæ dry, corrugated, and incrusted, in consequence of their long and constant exposure to the atmosphere. Respiration was performed with the greatest difficulty;—a most appalling and horrific stridula suffocatio incessantly vibrated in the ear, and its discordant notes were the more distressing, from being emitted through a patulous mouth, which had been constantly open from the commencement of the coma. The pulses at the wrists had very nearly become quiescent, and only gave evidence that life had not entirely abandoned these processes of the circulatory system, by a thready and barely perceptible pulsatory vibration. All attempts to arouse the child, even for a moment, were utterly fruitless: it lay with its head, hands and feet perfectly motionless, and with the most entire relaxation of their sustaining muscles. Deglutition was performed with very great difficulty; indeed, every attempt to excite the effort, by presenting ordinary liquids, threatened suffocation. The tongue and fauces had become dry in the extreme, and the former greatly contracted in size, presenting a pale, cold, and shrivelled appearance, from breathing with the mouth constantly open for so long a time.

It was not remarkable, that under circumstances so unfavorable, I should have hesitated for more than half an hour, after my arrival, before I would consent to do more than examine and observe the progress of the symptoms. Becoming interested for the unhappy mother of the infant, whose distress was greatly augmented by my reluctance to do anything, I resolved to make an effort, if only to quiet her feelings. The first step was directed to the restoration of warmth in the extremities, by

carefully wrapping the child in warm flannels and blankets. We next attempted to moisten and lubricate the tongue and fauces, for which purpose a mop of soft, old linen was employed, saturated with simple water, and carefully applied in succession to every part of the arid surfaces. By this simple process, and without the least danger of strangling, the parts were soon so far moistened as to enable us to introduce thick fluids into the stomach, which are always most easily swallowed, such as rice water and the like; though much difficulty was experienced, and not a little danger incurred, during the attempts. I next carefully introduced into the stomach, with a teaspoon, a mixture composed of five grains of tartar emetic, and ten of ipecacuanha, rendered semi-fluid with antimonial wine. This effort was finally successful, but the accomplishment of it was exceedingly difficult. A second dose of the medicines, mixed in the same manner, only augmenting the proportion of tartar to twenty grains, was quickly prepared and administered. After this attempt, a third, and succeeding doses, were prepared and administered, in rapid succession; and I was now emboldened to give a heaping teaspoonful of tartar at each dose, only employing the ipecacuanha and antimonial wine in quantities sufficient to suspend, and render fluent, so large a portion of the tartar. In this manner I proceeded, though not without much difficulty, and with fear and trembling, lest the little patient might strangle, until the full contents of an half ounce phial of tartar emetic, and the same quantities of ipecacuanha and antimonial wine, had been employed—requiring something more than two hours time for the accomplishment of this bold undertaking.

For ten hours it could not be perceived that the slightest change took place. After this period, the extremities became gradually warmer, and lost in the inverse ratio their livid appearance. The respiration, too, was sensibly relieved, with a corresponding subsidence of the cough and croupy sound. It was now that the first evidences of abatement of the stupor were manifested, since its commencement; and the little sufferer once more, greatly to the gratification of all, beamed consciousness from its dim eyes, and made known its desires by calling upon its almost heart-broken mother for water. This truce, though of short duration, did not end in a stupor so profound, as the infant could be roused from time to time; and it could be perceived, too, that it became less and less oppressive and heavy at each succeeding return of it. The symptoms continued from this time to ameliorate sensibly, and without the least evidence that nausea existed—an event to have been expected from such large quantities of emetic medicines then present in the stomach. At the expiration of twelve hours from the time of discontinuing all remedies, except the means for husbanding and promoting the warmth of the still cool extremities, the bowels suddenly gave way, and a most active and rapidly repeated catharsis came on. This continued with little abatement for six or seven hours; with its accession, the comatose symptoms disappeared; and by the third hour of its duration, every symptom of the original disease had greatly ameliorated. In six or seven hours from the commencement of the catharsis, the child was perfectly relieved of every sign of croup; only exhibiting a mucous rhonchus when it coughed.

The catharsis was suffered to take its course, though mucilaginous drinks and free dilution with warm milk greatly moderated its painful tortamina and gripings. It was succeeded by a diarrhoea, which continued two or three days, emitting occasionally sanguineous tingings of the dejections, attended with a very slight prolapsus ani. The continuation of the milk diet, and mucilaginous drinks, with occasional doses of oil, finally relieved the affection of the bowels : in two weeks the infant perfectly recovered, except slight debility.

The preceding case furnishes new evidence of the astonishing resources of the infantile constitution, and its tenaciousness of life, in many of its violent diseases. It also proves, that in certain extreme examples of croup, recoveries may take place under the most unfavorable circumstances. Infants laboring under croup should never be abandoned, as long as they breathe and can swallow. These tender subjects not only sustain violent shocks from disease, with comparatively little injury to their systems, but bear up under them much longer, in many instances, than adults. They also, in numerous cases, bear much larger doses of the more powerful remedies, than has generally been supposed safe by medical practitioners. Had the treatment in the case here reported been only bold and energetic, in the common acceptation of the terms, the child must certainly have perished : nothing but a plan of treatment characterized by the utmost extreme of temerity, or ultra-energetic, could have arrested so formidable a disease. I claim no other merit in the successful management of the foregoing case, than should be awarded to an important accidental cure ; for as such it must be regarded, as I had not anticipated such an event as recovery, notwithstanding the value and potency of large doses of tartar emetic had been long known to me, in the treatment of the bronchitic, as well as other forms of pulmonary diseases.

The modus operandi of the remedy in the case here reported, I leave to be explained by some of the intelligent contributors to your valuable Journal ; in the meantime I remain most respectfully your friend and subscriber.

Baltimore, March 7th, 1836.

GRAHAMISM NOT A CAUSE OF INSANITY.

[Continued from page 96.]

I AM sorry to say that in my interview with Dr. Lee, he decidedly refused to give me the names of any of the individuals alluded to in his article, and also refused to give me any further particulars in regard to the cases which he had published. This, it seems to me, was very unfair ;—for it was putting it entirely out of my power to investigate the cases which he had charged upon the "Graham system," and reserving to himself the *power* of making such a representation of those cases as he chooses. His excuse was, that the cases which he had stated concerned persons who had been committed to his professional care, and whose names he was not at liberty to disclose. If this be true, then Dr. Lee

ought to have been exceedingly careful how he brought forward such cases in a matter of such immense importance to mankind as the one under consideration. It is a question too deeply interesting to society to be lightly handled or hastily decided, and still less to be disposed of by popular prejudice. Society has now a right most solemnly to demand that the charges made by Dr. Lee against the "Graham system," shall be thoroughly and rigidly investigated:—not in an *ex parte* manner, but with all the rigorous scrupulousness of a criminal trial. Every circumstance in these cases must be known, by which we can be assisted in ascertaining how far the insanity complained of, was a simple, and how far a mixed result. For by this means, only, can we truly ascertain how far the "Graham system," in any or in all of its principles, was a predisposing—an exciting—or a preventing cause. Dr. Lee replies to me, "wait awhile, and probably other cases will be made known, which will fully settle the question, without any further reference to those which I have named." But can Dr. Lee suppose that I and my friends, or the honest friends of truth and humanity, will be satisfied with any number of cases made out in the *ex parte* manner in which he has given his; and in which all who will respond to his call, will in all probability give theirs? We can have no confidence in such statements, because we know how easily even candid minds may misapprehend facts in matters of this kind: and we well know how inevitably strongly prejudiced minds do misapprehend and mis-state facts in almost every matter. At present I feel entirely certain that if all the particulars and circumstances of each case stated by Dr. Lee can be made known, it will appear, to the satisfaction of every unprejudiced mind, that the "Graham system" is wholly free from any blame in the matter. Need it be said, however, that it is not pretended that it is not possible for any one who adopts the "Graham system" of living, to become insane, or be sick, or die, from any cause whatever: and when it is considered how large a portion of those who do in any measure adopt it, are broken-down invalids, who have been many years afflicted with distressing complaints, and in a great number of instances, with organic diseases of various descriptions, and powerful predispositions to insanity and other diseases, could it be justly regarded as an alarming evidence against that system, if some of those who, in whole or in part, adopt it, should become insane and many of them die, in spite of its conservative influence?

But let us briefly inquire, how far a change from a mixed diet of vegetable and animal food, with tea, coffee, &c. to a diet of pure vegetable food and water (which, by the way, constitutes but a small part of the "Graham system"), can possibly be a predisposing cause of insanity.

It is beyond all controversy true, that every human being who abandons an ordinary diet of vegetable and animal food, with tea, coffee, &c. to which he has been accustomed, and takes at once to a simple diet of pure vegetable food and water, in temperate quantities, will experience a considerable increase of healthy sensorial power and mental activity; and at the same time, he will suffer a physiological depression commensurate with the degree of excess to which he has formerly carried the use of flesh, tea, coffee, &c.; and this physiological depression will be more or

less distressing, and continue a longer or shorter time, according to the peculiar condition, circumstances, and habits of the individual. People of vigorous bodies, who are accustomed to active and energetic exercise in the open air, will recover from it in a short time; while those who are of sedentary or studious habits, given much to anxiety and confinement, will far more slowly recover. But, while this physiological depression remains, that portion of our organization which is more immediately concerned in the operations of the mind, partakes of the general physical debility of the whole body: so that, while the *sensorial power* and *mental activity* are increased, the *physical power* of the intellectual organs to sustain severe and protracted *mental action and excitement*, is somewhat diminished—or, at least, not proportionably increased.*

Hence students, who by ambition or other causes are sometimes induced to make a sudden change in their diet, and take to an abstemious vegetable and water diet, for the sake of being enabled to dispense with exercise, and to make the greatest proficiency in their studies in a given time, always find a great increase of sensorial power and mental activity; but if they apply their minds with extreme severity—and especially if they, at the same time, neglect all exercise, they will soon find—to use their own language—that their minds are becoming weak. Yet if such students, on changing their diet from more to less stimulating food, &c. would refrain from severe mental application, till they had recovered from their physiological depression, and then continue to govern themselves by a correct general regimen, they would experience nothing of what they call weakness of the mind, but would enjoy a degree of mental vigor and power of endurance which it is impossible for man to attain to in any other manner.

Take another class of people. Most of the laboring and business people in our country—as everywhere else—exercise their intellectual faculties and develope their intellectual powers little beyond what they find immediately necessary for their success in their particular pursuits of life. A vast amount of intellectual and moral capability lies wholly undeveloped through their earthly existence: and their intellectual and moral energies are, to a very great extent, kept in a state of sluggish inactivity and stupidity, by their dietetic habits and sensual excesses.

Let the habits of these people be suddenly changed, and bring them at once to a simple diet of pure vegetable food and water, and they will soon experience such an increase of sensorial power and mental activity, as greatly to astonish them. They will find themselves possessed of faculties and powers that they were before scarcely conscious of:—and it cannot be surprising that they should be much delighted with this new state of things. But this change of diet and increase of sensorial power and mental activity, cannot immediately impart knowledge and discipline

* By *sensorial power*, I mean that property of the nervous system concerned in mental perception, selection, memory, &c.; and by *mental activity*, I mean simply the quality of being active, and of mental wealth, knowledge, discipline, &c. By *physiological depression*, I mean that state of the body resulting from the abstraction of accustomed stimulants, in which the organs are consequently depressed below their usual tone, and fall short of their usual energy and action, causing a sense of debility and lassitude, and sometimes of great oppression, and in some instances—as when liquor is withheld from the habitual drunkard—a distressing sense of sinking and extreme exhaustion.

to the mind, and therefore it cannot be expected that these people are to be transformed at once into philosophers and men of science : but their increase of mental *activity* may only serve to expose more glaringly their want of mental education and discipline.

Now, then, while individuals are in this state of physiological depression, with an increase of sensorial power and mental activity, if some new cause should supervene, such as the loss of friends—of property—of character—religious anxiety—projects of ambition—land or other speculations, &c. &c. producing and keeping up intense and continued mental excitement, and causing a neglect of most or all of those principles of general regimen which I insist on quite as much as on the quality of the food—insanity might, and perhaps would in some cases, result. And this would be far more likely to be the case in those persons whose intellectual faculties were not much cultivated, and had not been much accustomed to intellectual effort and excitement. But all such cases, if properly managed, might be easily cured without recourse to flesh, wine, or opium.

While I admit, however, that under these peculiar circumstances, the pure vegetable eater is more likely to be rendered insane by supervening causes which have no necessary relation to his diet, than when he is in the most vigorous state of his physiological powers, yet I must in solemn honesty, and upon the most fully ascertained principles of science, deny that it is ever, in any degree, the legitimate tendency of a vegetable diet, of itself, to produce insanity ; or that, as a general statement, mankind are more likely to become insane by changing from a mixed diet of vegetable and animal food, to one of pure vegetable food and water—while, on the other hand, it is well known that, in civic life at least, the free use of flesh-meat, in itself, tends to produce insanity.

More than two thousand years ago, Theophrastus, the philosopher, who studied under Plato and Aristotle—and succeeded the latter in the lyceum—the number of whose hearers, we are told, became two thousand, and who died at the age of 107, asserts, as an unquestionable fact, that “eating much, and *feeding upon flesh*, makes the mind more dull and drives it to the very extremes of madness.” The same idea is advanced by other ancient philosophers. “Dr. Halloran,” says Dr. Lambe, of England, “having been physician to the Lunatic Asylum, of Cork, from the year 1789, says, ‘there are certain festival seasons of the year, when the asylum is supplied with flesh-meat. The consequence on these occasions has been uniformly the same. The strictest precautions were necessary to guard against a scene of uproar which was sure to follow. The same was the case when the establishment was new, and flesh-meat furnished once a week.’”

Dr. A. E. Hosack, of New York, gave me the following statement, in the presence of Dr. Francis, on the 4th of June, 1833, as a matter of his own knowledge. “A very respectable and worthy family of Philadelphia, were in the habit of making a free use of animal food, generally having it, in some form or other, on the table three times a day, and partaking of it with considerable freedom. Three out of four brothers of this family became successively insane, and two of them, at least, de-

stroyed their own lives. I am not certain that the third one did. The fourth, with whom I was personally acquainted, began to feel the symptoms of insanity coming upon himself, and suffered occasional aberrations of mind. In this unhappy condition, at a moment when his mind was rational and undisturbed, he was led to reflect on the habits of the family with reference to their great affliction. But he was able to fix upon no probable cause, unless it was their free use of flesh-meat. He immediately abandoned the use of animal food entirely, and ate no more during life. His symptoms of insanity very soon disappeared—his mind became serene and cheerful and vigorous; and his health in all respects became good, and continued so to the close of his life. He subsisted at least fourteen years on vegetable food, during which time he was an active philanthropist."

Mr. B., a tragedian, who has performed with much distinction in all the principal theatres of our country, has for several years past found himself subject to fits of insanity. I have been informed, by his personal friends, that his only means of avoiding this calamity, is an entire abstinence from animal food.

Mr. J. C., a highly respectable gentleman of this State, called on me a few months since, and stated to me that insanity had been an hereditary affection in the family to which he belonged—that he found himself seriously threatened with it, and had begun to experience many distressing symptoms—that he attended my lectures in the summer of 1832—had strictly adopted the system of living which I recommended—that soon after this he found his health improving in every respect—his mental disorder in a short time wholly disappeared—and he had ever since enjoyed the most perfect health of body and mind, with a decided and very considerable increase of vigor and activity of both.

I might add many instances of this kind, but it is unnecessary. None but those whose knowledge is very limited on this subject, can doubt that man can enjoy excellent bodily health and great mental vigor on a well ordered vegetable and water diet. To say nothing of the ancient philosophers, and statesmen, and orators, and poets, and historians, and divines, who subsisted wholly on a vegetable diet, we have in modern times, and in our own day, many instances of individuals who have subsisted in this manner, most of their lives, with great advantage to the health and vigor of both body and mind. Thomas Spilletoe, of England, now over eighty years old, has lived the last half of his life wholly on a simple diet of vegetable food and water. Though nothing more than an ordinary man in early life, he is now considered very extraordinary for an octogenarian, in point of bodily health and agility, and mental energy and activity. Benjamin Howland, of Rhode Island, was an infirm man at forty years old;—at that age he adopted a simple vegetable diet; his health and strength soon began to improve, and he has continued to live in this manner till the present. He is now in his eighty-fifth year—is a large farmer, and for the last forty years has every season led all his hands in the hay and harvest field, and they who kept up with him did a good day's work. All who know Mr. Howland, know that he retains his bodily powers and his intellectual clearness, acumen, vigor and soundness, in a

remarkable degree. But cases of this kind are to be found in almost every part of our country: and there is no proposition in the science of human life more clearly demonstrated, than that a well-ordered vegetable diet is most favorable to the highest order of intellectual acumen, activity, power and soundness. The misfortune is, that people generally know nothing about the science of human life; and not one in a hundred even of the members of the medical profession, has anything more than the most superficial acquaintance with this important science.

It is not with a disposition to return reviling for reviling, or to detract from Dr. Lee's merits as a physician and a man of mind, but from an honest conviction of my judgment, that I say that his knowledge of the science of human life is very limited. The article which he has published affords the most complete evidence of this, to those who are capable of perceiving and appreciating it. He writes like a superficial observer and a loose reasoner, who hastily draws general conclusions from very limited and imperfectly ascertained premises.

Prejudiced men and smatterers may consider his article an able one, because it agrees with their prejudices and habits; but profound and accurate thinkers—men of deep learning and ripe minds—will perceive at a glance that it is presumptuous, loose and inconclusive; and that it greatly abounds with at least the *appearances* of rank prejudice and dishonesty.

SPINA BIFIDA, COMPLICATED WITH OTHER MALFORMATIONS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE following curious case of Spina Bifida may be interesting, since it was connected with other deformities. The child was born May 5, 1835, and lived six months and ten days. At birth the head was observed to be rather larger than usual. Upper extremities and body were well formed, as far as the second and third lumbar vertebræ, where the tumor of the spina bifida was situated. It was about as large as half of a small orange, rather flaccid. Lower extremities were at right angles with the trunk. Both feet were clubbed; very little flexion of knees, though they improved some in this respect before death. The legs extended so as to form an angle of 68 deg. with the thighs, in front, and the lower extremities were frequently brought in contact with the face. No patella could be distinguished at birth, and with difficulty before death. The life of such a deformed being was not very desirable. Everything, however, was done to make it comfortable, but nothing with any expectations of remedying any of its malformations, for it evidently could live but a few months. The lightest dressings were applied to the tumor, which always irritated it, and serum was constantly oozing from the capillaries on its surface. The child was always feeble—never able to support its head upright—restless and irritable—often appeared to suffer much from pain. Had little or no command over its evacuations. The eyes never appeared natural and intelligent, but wild and staring, though the parents supposed it to be as *intelligent* as any child. The head and

tumor increased more rapidly in size than the body and limbs; and a few days before death the head measured nineteen, and the tumor ten inches in circumference. The integuments over the fontanelles and the tumor became more and more distended till death. The sutures of the cranium were separated but very little. A few days before death, the child was convulsed, but there was no complete paralysis or tetanus. After death, the fontanelles became depressed, the anterior to the depth of half or three fourths of an inch. The tumor was more easily compressed than during life.

After death the lower extremities were brought nearly in a line with the body. Circumstances did not admit of a very thorough post-mortem examination. The walls of the tumor consisted of the common integuments and membranes of the medulla spinalis. The contents of the tumor were a serous fluid, nearly colorless, and a thick cream-like substance of a pearl-white color. It was about the consistence of thick cream, and resembled very much the softened spinal marrow. There was more serum than creamy substance. The calibre of the neck of the tumor was not more than one-third of an inch in diameter, though its base externally was nearly as large as the largest diameter. The neck of the sac did not pass between the two halves of one of the vertebrae, but between the third and fourth vertebrae.

The articulation of the hip-joint was very much like one of the ribs with the vertebrae. There was no proper neck or trochanters, but the upper extremity of the femur very much resembled the vertebral extremity of a rib. The knee-joints were easily articulated, and nearly natural, except a deficiency in the prominence of the anterior part of the condyles, easily admitting the leg to be extended to much more than a straight line with the thigh. The patella was about one-quarter of an inch in diameter. We could carry the examination no further.

Although circumstances did not permit us to examine the brain at all, or the spine more carefully, yet from symptoms during life, and from appearances after death, there can be no doubt that there was a free communication between the ventricles of the brain and the tumor. In nearly all such congenital malformations, there is evidently some remote cause, with which we are very little acquainted. In the present case, however, we are inclined to believe that we know something of the remote occasion. Some time during the early months of pregnancy, the mother was very much affected from a sister's child being taken from the river in a state of asphyxia, and brought into the house where she then resided. The drowning child soon recovered, but the shock was considerable.

Was not this shock sufficient to cause some defect in the growing foetus? May not the head and upper part of the body have been so far advanced that the shock could not so easily affect the growth of that part of the foetus, but yet sufficiently powerful to check the perfectly healthy development of the lower half of the child, which is not matured so early? The mischief might then be extended to the otherwise sound portions—as in the instance of a communication being established between the dis-

eased portion of the spinal column and the brain, through nearly the whole length of the spine.

S. B. CARPENTER.

Newton, Ms. March 15, 1836.

CHILD-BIRTH CONVULSIONS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I have taken a hasty sketch of the following case of midwifery, and forwarded the same to you—not with the expectation of furnishing the medical world with anything new, but merely as affording one more evidence, to those already on record, of the safety, if not the propriety, of sometimes deviating from the formal rules of long-established practice; and which you are at liberty to dispose of as you may think proper.

Phelps, N. Y. Feb. 20, 1836.

CALEB BANNISTER.

Mrs. M—, of large stature, and full and robust habit, aged 42, was taken in labor on the morning of the 21st of Sept. last, with her 14th child. On the evening of the same day I was called to her, and found her laboring under hard and frequent pains, together with severe convulsions. An examination per vaginam was immediately made; the os uteri was found to be amply dilated, and the membranes protruding, but no part of the foetus could be felt through them. The patient refused to be bled, so I proceeded immediately to introduce the hand into the uterus, in order to ascertain the presenting part. At this period, the convulsions and the violence of the pains, together with the evident unfavorable presentation of the child, gave to the case an aspect that was to me appalling indeed. On introducing the hand, my previous fears were all confirmed, for, to my sorrow, the first part encountered was the shoulder. The waters were of course gradually discharging—the contractions of uterus were violent—the symptoms of repeated convulsions alarming, &c. I was so far enabled to raise the shoulder, between the pains, as to pass the hand, but could not pass it so as to obtain the feet, owing to the violence of the pains, and soon was convinced that I should be obliged to withdraw it without effecting my object, the turning of the child. Making a virtue of necessity, therefore, I resolved to make the attempt to cause the head to advance in place of the shoulder, and was not a little surprised, as well as gratified, to find that I succeeded so easily—and which was done by raising the shoulder so as to pass the hand by it, slipping it around the head, and holding it in as favorable a position as circumstances would allow, until the accession of a pain, and then gradually withdrawing it. The head dropped and rested upon the pelvis, and the shoulder was not to be felt. I sat awhile with the pleasing expectation that a very few pains would safely relieve my patient from her perilous situation. The pains, however, instantly subsided, and she remained perfectly free from them for the space of thirteen hours. During this period of anxious suspense, she had no return of the convulsions, but was troubled with alternate and severe ague chills, and fever, and her appearance was truly frightful. Waiting, however, with as much pa-

tience as I was enabled to exert, the above length of time, the pains returned, and she was speedily and safely delivered of a very large and healthy child, and her recovery was favorable.

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MACKINTOSH'S PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.*

THE favor with which this work has been regarded in England, might be inferred from the fact that, notwithstanding the many treatises on this subject which the medical press of that country has furnished, it has already within a few years passed through three editions. The distinguished and deserved celebrity of the author on this side of the Atlantic, would certainly justify its appearance in an American dress—particularly as it was the design of its able editor, by notes and alterations, to adapt it to the practice of our own country. The reader will not fail at once to subscribe to the simplicity of the author's classification of diseases, which in our opinion is no unimportant part of a compendium of practice; and at the present day of fast multiplying works of this character, the arrangement is almost the only real and essential distinction between them. That of this writer is one that would naturally suggest itself to the mind of the practical physician; as avoiding on the one hand that labored and nicely scientific arrangement, that brings diseases into a fellowship acknowledged nowhere but in a nosological table, and on the other free from that disorderly or merely alphabetical system that characterize the works of "domestic medicine." In his history of the doctrines that have been held on the subject of inflammation, the author has a common condemnatory verdict, that all are guilty of confounding cause and effect, a sin that might safely be laid to the charge of a great portion of the medical observers of the present day. He however wisely concludes to leave anatomy and physiology to settle certain disputed points, before this "terra incognita" can be safely invaded. A prominent characteristic of the work, is that in connection with rich learning, and the results of acute and long-continued observation of disease therein manifested, there are strewed throughout the volume some excellent treats of common sense—so much of a "rara avis" among medical theorists, that we delight to notice them. This is strikingly displayed in that portion of the work on the causes of inflammation. What medical student that has not felt himself in the region of mysticism when plodding over causes proximate and remote, exciting and predisposing, and when bringing his knowledge to the elucidation of any specific disease, compelled to call the symptoms the disease, and the disease the proximate cause? How much does it aid the medical student in understanding hooping cough, to be told in our text-books that among many of its predisposing causes is a "serous temperament" or "a disposition to catarrhal affections"? This work is in an eminent degree practical, bearing the impress of a mind accustomed and

* Mackintosh's Principles of Pathology and Practice of Physic, with Notes and Alterations by S. G. Morton, M.D. Phil. edit.

apt to teach, and cannot fail to secure for its author in this country the deservedly high reputation he holds in his own, of being one of the most accurate and judicious observers of disease of the present age.

It is however of this edition of the work by Dr. Morton, that we intended to give a brief analysis for our readers. The editor has been very favorably known as the author of a volume of illustrations of pulmonary consumption; and certainly it is due him to say, that he has embodied in this edition of Mackintosh's Practice much of his rich store of pathological knowledge. He devotes about twenty pages to an explanation of the principles of the physiological system of medicine, which has excited so much discussion for a few years past in the medical annals of our country. Mackintosh's Practice is founded in a good degree on the principles of Broussais. We felt glad to see and read a full exposition of this system—the basis of reasoning, and especially the view of fever as connected with it, which has so much divided the medical public. In no work with which we are acquainted, is it so clearly and concisely unfolded; and not a bare statement merely, but throughout the volume he has arrayed medical facts, by which these principles are tested according to the strictest induction. These portions of the work cannot be too highly commended. The editor appears in all of them to take that middle ground between the cold incredulity of the ignorant in pathological anatomy, and the blind enthusiasm that would convert any fact in favor of a darling theory, although in violation of the axioms of medical logic or the laws of common sense. A very important part of this volume is that which treats of intermittent fever. Mackintosh has become celebrated for the discovery of a remedy so long desired, that would prevent the returns of the paroxysms of the tertian intermittent, viz. bleeding in the cold stage. The pathology of this fever has ever been a vexed question in medicine. The French school apply their idea of irritation, to an explanation of its phenomena—which is the rationale of the antiphlogistic and derivative practice. According to the opinion of Dr. Morton, this remedy will not admit in our climate of indiscriminate application. He dissents also entirely from the author's practice in administering large and frequently repeated doses of quinine, but considers, with us, it is seldom necessary to give more than 12 grains during the first, and not more than half during the second interval of the paroxysms. We cannot speak too highly of the editor's additional remarks on typhus—in which he has given the profession an abstract of the invaluable labors of MM. Louis and Chomel, in calling the attention of the profession to certain symptoms as referable to existing lesions occupying the mucous follicles of the intestines, &c. which heretofore had not been regarded as peculiar to this affection. This result of their researches is deeply interesting to our medical practitioners, whose opportunities are frequent to confirm or add to such important pathological knowledge of this grave disease. A brief but able chapter has been added by the editor on vaccination. He has also re-written the chapter on cholera asphyxia, which the author appears to have finished before this distressing malady came under his own personal observation. He has embodied with clearness and ability the experience of French, English and American physicians, as to the pathology of this terrible scourge, and the various and contradictory treatment to which it has been subjected. We have not time to mark the other important additions of Dr. Morton, but cannot in justice omit his contributions to the chapter on phthisis pulmonalis, particularly page 444, on the treatment which ought

to be studied by every practitioner amid the ravages of this widely destructive disease. Dr. Morton deserves much gratitude of the profession for placing in their hands a text-book, so marked by original thought, and rich with pathological and sound therapeutic knowledge, and we heartily hope he will receive something more solid, of which the work is certainly worthy.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

In accordance with a law of the Commonwealth enacted Feb. 16th, 1789, and in obedience to a By-Law of the Society, the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society give notice,—that candidates for examination before the Censors must hereafter give evidence of having read and studied the list of books adopted at the Counsellor's meeting, Feb. 3, 1836, the titles of which are contained in the list which follows :—

- Charles Bell's System of Anatomy and Physiology.
- Wistar's, Paxton's, or Cloquet's Anatomy.
- Oliver's First Lines of Physiology.
- Richerand's Elements of Physiology.
- Bichat on Life and Death.
- Bichat's General Anatomy, translated by Dr. Hayward.
- Beclard's Additions to Bichat, do.
- Turner's Elements of Chemistry, or
- Brande's Manual of Chemistry, by Dr. Webster.
- Pharmacopœia of the United States.
- Bigelow's Materia Medica.
- Sykes's Principles of Surgery.
- Samuel Cooper's First Lines of Surgery, 2 vols.
- Sir Astley Cooper's Lectures on Surgery, last edition.
- Hunter's Treatise on the Blood, Inflammation and Gun-shot Wounds.
- Thompson on Inflammation.
- Deweese's System of Midwifery.
- Velpeau's Elementary Treatise on Midwifery.
- Good's System of Nosology.
- Martinet's Manual of Pathology.
- Gregory's Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Physic.
- Laennec on Diseases of the Chest.
- Louis's Researches on Phthisis.*
- Louis's Researches on Typhus.
- Fordyce's Dissertation on Fever.
- Heberden's Commentaries on Diseases.
- Deweese on Diseases of Children.
- Lawrence, or Mackenzie on Diseases of the Eye.
- Cazenave on Diseases of the Skin.
- Hunter's Treatise on Lues venerea.
- Bailie's Morbid Anatomy.
- Cook's Abridgement of Morgagni.
- Beck's Medical Jurisprudence.

JOHN HOMANS, Recording Sec'y Mass. Medical Society.
Boston, March 6, 1836.

* The works of Louis will not be required until translations of them shall have been published in this country.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

IN 1825, M. Foissac, a distinguished physician of the Faculty of Paris, and a skilful "magnetizer," wrote a memoir to the Academy of Medicine, in which he invited that learned body to make a new "examination of Animal Magnetism." M. Foissac's proposition was discussed, finally adopted, and a commission appointed to investigate the subject. The members chosen were—Bourdois de la Motte, Fouquier, Gueneau de Mussy, Leroux, Guersent, Marc, Thillaye, Magendie, Husson, Double. A regular course of experiments was commenced by these gentlemen, and pursued during four years. Their reputation and the length of time they were engaged, make it certain that the experiments were carefully made and can be fully relied upon.

In 1831, a Report on the facts observed by the commission was read before the Academy of Medicine. This Report contains a full account of most of the experiments, presented in a progressive manner, from the most doubtful cases to the most evident and striking proofs of the magnetical action. It is written in a plain, lucid, and very philosophical manner, and its tone and character show that it was carefully considered by scientific and sceptical men, who could neither be imposed upon by falsehood or jugglery, nor led to exaggeration by enthusiasm or credulity. That Report, which certainly constitutes a most authentic, instructive and trustworthy document on Animal Magnetism, M. Charles Poyen proposes to translate into the English language and publish by subscription. Its title is to be, "*A Report on the Magnetic Experiments made by the Commission of the Royal Academy of Medicine, of Paris, read in the meetings of the 21st and 28th June, 1831, by M. Husson, Reporter.*" It will form a work of about 140 pages, large 12mo. size; price 75 cents. Subscriptions received at this office.

Spontaneous Combustion.—Most of our readers will recollect an interesting case, in the last volume of the Journal, of what was called partial spontaneous human combustion, in the person of Prof. H. of Nashville, Tenn. The following additional particulars are from the professor himself, as related in the last number of the Transylvania Journal, and give a cause for the occurrence which may be considered sufficient without the aid of spontaneous human combustion.

"The drawers worn by him, at the time of the accident, were newly made, and put on without being washed. The store at which he procured the materials for them had lately been painted, and the remnant of the goods from which they were made took fire, not many days afterwards, and was consumed, endangering the whole building. He supposes, and there can be but little doubt of the truth of his opinion, that in painting the shelves some of the paint was dropped upon the cloth, a mixture of silk and cotton—and that from the action of the oil upon it the combustion resulted, which has been repeatedly observed under such circumstances. A drop of oil adhering to his drawers, in due time set them on fire; but the situation being one unfavorable to the process, the burning ceased when that part of the fabric imbued with oil was consumed."

Iodine in Mercurial Salivation.—Dr. Davie, a promising young physician of Alabama, writes that he has found "iodine a speedy and effica-

cious remedy in mercurial diseases. With it alone, I have succeeded in curing the most aggravated cases of ptalism. Even where the fauces were deeply ulcerated, and the alveoli exposed, I have relieved my patients without any exfoliation whatever. I differ from the formula given in the Transylvania Journal (vol. 7, p. 437,) by adding 5 grains of the hydriodate of potash, which renders the iodine more soluble."—*Trans. Jour.*

Duration of Phthisis.—Of 114 cases observed by Louis, rather more than two-tenths died between the first and sixth months of the disease; four-tenths between the sixth and twelfth months; rather less than a fourth between the first and second years; and less than one-fifth between the second and twentieth.

Medical Miscellany.—Drs. Beck and Bedford, of New York, have had a nose-twisting quarrel in Broadway—an ingenious mode of gaining public notoriety.—The smallpox, or something quite like it, is very fatal in North Carolina.—Prof. Riddell, of Cincinnati, has published an excellent paper on the Geological Features of Ohio, which shows him to be a man of accurate observation and critical scientific acquirements.—It has been well ascertained that chewing tobacco is highly destructive to the teeth, inasmuch as the essential oil of that powerful narcotic so softens the bony texture of a tooth, that it begins to decay prematurely.—An annual report to the Board of Trustees of the Mass. General Hospital, 1835—has been published. As a whole, it is very satisfactory—more will be said of it when there is opportunity.—The particulars of several new and eligible situations for commencing the practice of physic and surgery, may be known, by addressing the editor, post-paid.—Dr. Mifflin Coulter has been recently appointed surgeon, and Dr. A. S. Wedderburn assistant surgeon, in the navy.—A Philadelphia dentist has had his fingers badly injured—they happening to be in a patient's mouth at the instant he was taken with a fit.—Dr. J. Palmer, of this city, has sailed for Havana, on account of the ill health of his lady.—Dr. Sleigh, formerly of Cincinnati, of ephemeral notoriety as a lecturer on infidelity, who has also figured in a small way in public discussions, advertises in New York that he has recommenced the practice of his profession—leaving the price of his services entirely to the liberality of patients. His pockets will never suffer from plethora.—A successful second operation for the formation of a new anus, was performed at Glasgow, last season, by surgeon Lindsay, on a boy of five years old, who was born with imperforation of the rectum, and was operated upon soon after birth. The first appears to have been too small an opening—as it became stopped by a plumb-stone, swallowed four months before the second incision was made. The patient is perfectly well.—Mr. Ikin, a surgeon of Yorkshire, has published a curious case of amaurosis, following suppressed feelings of passion. The doctrine is this—that a person who suffers himself to be in a furious passion, is in absolute danger of becoming blind. The promulgation of this discovery may have a happy influence on society.—A new treatise on Auscultation, by Dr. Raciborski, formerly a surgeon in the Polish army, has been translated in England, from the French.—The Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology, by Dr. Todd, has reached the fourth part, and gaining friends.—The concours for the vacant chair of clinical surgery in the Faculty of Medicine, at Paris, commenced on the second

of January. MM. Sanson, Berard, Jr. Lapelletier, Jobert de Lamballe, Sedillot and Langier, were the principal candidates. Concours for the anatomical chair, open on the 14th of April.—No less than eight new works, of importance to the profession, have just been issued from the London press.—Henry Bond, M.D. has been elected President of the Philadelphia Board of Health.—A child is now exhibiting in Montreal, only ten months old, weighing *ninety pounds*. Its height is two feet, six inches, and it measures two feet and eight inches in circumference.

To Correspondents.—An interesting history of a case of Calculus—one of Spinal Irritation—and remarks on the Law of Menstruation, are on file for publication.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending March 19, 34. Males, 19—Females, 15. Of infantile, 3—cancer in the head, 1—diarrhea, 1—lung fever, 3—inflammation of the throat, 1—rupture in the head, 1—measles, 1—marasmus, 2—inflammation on the lungs, 1—piles, 1—consumption, 2—croup, 2—old age, 1—fits, 1—drowned, 2—hanged, 2—amputation, 1—intemperance, 1—disease of the heart, 1—spasms, 1—dropsy on the brain, 2—convulsions, 1—delirium tremens, 1. Stillborn, 2.

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction, and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive clinical lectures on the cases they witness there. Instruction, by lectures or examinations, will be given in the intervals of the public lectures, every week day.

On Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children, and on Chemistry,	by DR. CHANNING.
On Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and Materia Medica,	" DR. WARE.
On the Principles and Practice of Surgery	" DR. OTIS.
On Anatomy	" DR. LEWIS.

The students are provided with a room in Dr. Lewis's house, where they have access to a large library. Lights and fuel without any charge. The opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of Anatomy are not inferior to any in the country.

The fees are \$100—to be paid in advance. No credit given, except on sufficient security of some person in Boston, nor for a longer period than six months.

Applications are to be made to Dr. Walter Channing, Tremont Street, opposite the Tremont House, Boston.

Jan 20—lyep

WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

SURGICAL NOTICE. TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The attention of the Medical Profession is respectfully invited to the report of the gentlemen composing the Committee of the Philadelphia Medical Society, appointed to investigate the merits of the various instruments now before the public, for the treatment of hernia and radical cure of this disease, published in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences for the present month (February), by order of the Society.

Since the above report, important improvements have been made in the different instruments as adapted to the varieties of this disease, and the improvements referred to by the Committee, as being under consideration at the time of the report, now constitute a part of this set of instruments.

These instruments will be placed in the hands of the profession *only*, believing, with the Committee above referred to, that no Truss capable of producing a radical cure in hernia, can be used except by a surgeon, and that no Truss should be applied except by those versed in the anatomy of hernia, and principles of surgery.

Surgeons throughout the United States, are invited to take an interest in the use of these instruments.

Any information in relation to the above instruments and method of treating this disease, will be freely given to the profession.

See advertisement in the preceding number (November) of the American Journal.

Address (free of expense), HEBER CHASE.

111 South 9th St. Philadelphia.

INSTRUCTION IN DENTISTRY.

The undersigned would receive six pupils who are desirous of acquiring a perfectly scientific and systematic knowledge of practical dentistry. For terms, apply, by letter or otherwise, to No. 38 School Street, between the hours of 12 and 2, P.M. HENRY A. DEWAR, M.D. M.M.S.S. March 9

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